

REMARKS

The instant Response is responsive to the Written Restriction Requirement mailed on March 21, 2005. Applicants respectfully elect Species I corresponding to claims 1, 2, 21-36, 40-43, 46-48, 50-54, 64-85, 91-96, 98-100, and 101-112.

The Restriction Requirement

The Written Restriction Requirement identifies three species deemed to be patentably distinct:

- Species I - Figure 1
- Species II - Figure 11
- Species III - Figure 12.

Present claims 64-79 are deemed to be generic to all species.

Applicants Elect Species 1 of FIGURE 1

Applicants elect Species I of FIGURE 1. In addition to claims 64-79 identified by the Written Restriction Requirement as being generic to all species including Species I, Applicants find that at least claims 1, 2, 21-36, 40-43, 46-48, 50-54, 80-85, 91-96, 98-100, and 101-112 also read upon Species I.

Accordingly, Applicants elect claims 1, 2, 21-36, 40-43, 46-48, 50-54, 64-85, 91-96, 98-100, and 101-112 for further prosecution on the merits.

Although Applicants have elected Species I, it is noted that in accordance with MPEP § 2111, the elected claims should be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification during examination. Moreover, as noted in the Written Restriction Requirement, Applicants are "entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim."

Claims 55 and 114 has been amended to correct informalities

Claim 55 is amended herein to replace the inadvertent "and" by the intended "the". Claim 114 is amended to replace "desire" by "desired". (Note, however, that both these claims are non-elected).

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 21-36, 40-43, 46-48, 50-54, 64-85, 91-96, 98-100, and 101-112 should be examined together. Accordingly, Applicants look forward to a forthcoming Office Action on the merits addressing these claims. Additionally, upon allowance of any generic claim, consideration of the unelected withdrawn species is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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4-21-05
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